concerned State Governments for urgent action and to send a report in this behalf.

Setting up of National Village and Rehabilitation Mission

1883. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that National Village and Rehabilitation Mission has been set up by Government;

(b) if so, the village-wise details of additional houses constructed under the action plan of this mission in the State of Rajasthan; and

(c) the details thereof including village-wise number of such houses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) Ministry of Rural Development has not set up National Village and Rehabilitation Mission.

(b) and (c) In view of (a) above, questions do not arise.

Improving standard of living under various poverty alleviation programmes

†1884. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether people in most villages of the country are living in extreme poverty despite implementation of Centrally sponsored development schemes and poverty alleviation programmes by the Central Government;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to improve their standard of living especially in Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh; and

(c) by when their results would be obtained?

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) As per the estimates of the Planning Commission, the rural population living below the poverty line has declined to 27.09% (30 day recall period) during 1999-2000, as compared to 37.27% during 1993-94.

The Ministry of Rural Development have been implementing schemes for employment generation, habitat development, infrastructure and area development and Social Security in the rural areas of all the States/Union Territories, including Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh, for further improving the standard of living of the rural poor. These schemes have already shown a positive impact in the rural areas.

Financial assistance for rural infrastructure programmes

1885. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have granted financial assistance for rural infrastructure programmes in the different States of the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Ministry of Rural Development have provided financial assistance for creation of Rural Infrastructure under two programmes, namely, the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) and the Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY). The details of funds released to the State Governments under these programmes during the year 2001-02 are given in the Statement.